

Invasive Plant Species Control in Natural Habitats (Acre) 797

DEFINITION

The control of invasive plant species whose presence is or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.

PURPOSES

- To provide for the control of invasive plant species in forest, grassland, and wetland wildlife habitats and other areas where commodity crops are not produced.
- To minimize the economic, ecological, and human health impacts caused by invasive plants.
- To increase or restore native plant communities.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

In forest, grassland, and wetland habitats and other non-commodity crop producing areas where plant species are or are likely to impair intended use(s).

On all land uses and habitats where protection or diversification of native plant communities is desired.

This practice is also applicable in areas where human and animal health and safety hazards are present.

CRITERIA

Vegetative manipulations and control of invasive plants may be accomplished by mechanical, chemical, biological, prescribed burning, or a combination of all of these methods.

The control method(s) used will be designed to protect the soil from erosion.

Pesticides, if used, will be handled and applied in accordance with the product label and any state/local regulations or laws.

The current versions of the Soil-Pesticide Screening Tool and the Leaching Index, found in Section II of the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) will be

used to evaluate the risk to surface and/or ground water resources. When a chosen alternative has significant potential to negatively impact water resources, (e.g., WIN-PST “Extra High,” “High,” or “Intermediate” soil/pesticide human risk ratings in the drainage area of a drinking water reservoir), an appropriate set of mitigation techniques must be put in place to address risks to humans and non-targeted plants and animals. Appropriate conservation practices shall be identified that address the pesticide loss pathway and specific resource concern (e.g., Filter Strip, Irrigation Water Management, or pesticide incorporation may be appropriate mitigation techniques for pesticide solution loss that is impacting a surface water body). Clients shall be encouraged to pay special attention to pesticide label instructions for limiting pesticide residues in leachate and runoff that may negatively impact non-target plants, animals, and humans.

When using chemical controls, the spot treatment method will be used whenever feasible to minimize the amount of pesticides used.

Control of an invasive plant species will be considered to have been accomplished when the species is no longer detectable following two growing seasons after control measures have been applied to the treatment area.

Control methods will be designed to protect and encourage the growth of desirable native plant species.

Areas where control measures have been undertaken may require revegetation to desirable plant species. (Refer to Michigan NRCS FOTG for applicable planting standards such as: 512 - Pasture and Hay Planting, 612 - Tree/Shrub Planting, 327 - Conservation Cover, 645 - Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, and 342 - Critical Area Planting.)

Use vegetation adapted to the site that will accomplish the desired purpose. Preference shall be given to native species in order to reduce the introduction of invasive plant species; provide management of existing invasive species; and minimize the economic, ecological, and human health impacts that invasive species may cause. If native plant materials are not available or proven effective for the planned use, then non-native species may be used. Refer to FOTG, Section II, Invasive Plant Species for plant materials identified by NRCS-Michigan as invasive species.

Disposal of invasive plants (burning, burial, composting) from the area of control will ensure that the invasive species does not spread or re-colonize into new areas.

Invasive plant species control shall be planned, designed, and installed to meet all federal, state, local, and tribal laws and regulations. All State of Michigan permits will be secured prior to installation.

CONSIDERATIONS

Refer to Michigan FOTG, Section IV, Conservation Sheets for specified control measures by species.

Consider the impacts of control methods on threatened and endangered species.

Consider the potential effects of installation and operation of Invasive Plant Species Control on the cultural, archeological, historic, and economic resources.

Consider the off-site impacts of control methods (i.e., smoke from controlled burning, pesticide runoff, drift).

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Specifications for applying this practice shall be prepared for each site and recorded using approved specification sheets, job sheets, narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation. As a minimum, an Invasive Plant Species Control Plan will be prepared for each area where plants are to be controlled.

Invasive Plant Species Control Plans will identify:

- Species to be controlled.
- Habitat or land use being or likely to be impaired.
- Control method(s) to be used (mechanical, biological, chemical, prescribed fire, other).
- Timing of control.
- Method of revegetating treated area and species to be introduced into the treated area.
- Method of disposing of treated invasive plant materials.
- Schedule for monitoring regrowth and plan for follow-up control measures if re-growth is detected within the control area.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Areas where control measures have been taken will be monitored at least annually for detection of re-growth or re-introduction of control species into the control area. Any re-growth of the targeted species into the treated areas(s) will be controlled with follow-up treatment(s).

REFERENCES

Michigan Invasive Plants Council,
<http://www.msue.msu.edu/mipc>.

Michigan Department of Agriculture, Prohibited and Restricted Weeds List,
http://www.michigan.gov/mda/0,1607,7-125-1569_16993-11250--,00.html.

Plant Conservation Alliance's Alien Plant Working Group (lists and fact sheets on eradication and prevention of invasive plants),
<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/index.htm>.

The Nature Conservancy, Weed Control Methods Handbook for Invasive Species,
<http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/handbook.html>.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Invasive Plant Species List, Michigan Field Office Technical Guide, Section II.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Plant Data Center, Plants Database,
<http://plants.usda.gov>.

USDA Forest Service, Invasive Plants of the Eastern States - Identification and Control,
<http://www.invasive.org/eastern/>.

United States Government, Office of the President, President's Executive Order on Invasive Species, February 3, 1999.